

(Mr. Ardekani, Islamic Republic of Iran)

... Unfortunately, there are a few who do not discern this change. Those who do not appreciate that the world is changing or do not want to believe that. Let us hope that global negotiations on effective disarmament, with their collective nature, will be the instrument which expedites and paves the way for increasing understanding about this changing world. When we say the move toward disarmament is being expedited, it is because we observe that the draft of the convention banning chemical weapons is in the process of being finalized. This is an achievement for the Conference on Disarmament as the sole international body for disarmament negotiations. We have noted that the Paris Conference reaffirmed the role of the Conference on Disarmament in finalizing a convention on all aspects of chemical weapons.

Adherence to an absolute prohibition of chemical weapons should be globally verifiable, unconditional, and subject to no divergent interpretation. It should be unlimited in its application and duration. It should also have horizontal and vertical scope within and between countries. Under this convention, no justification should ever permit the use or threat of use of chemical weapons, nor should any one even seek to invoke Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations to justify the production, stockpiling or transfer of chemical weapons within the territory of a country or against any other nation. The verification and investigation procedures should be effective and leave no room for any violation. Any violation should be dealt with in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

As the Conference on Disarmament is reaching the final stages of its deliberations on the draft of the new convention, it is our duty to involve non-member States and seek their adherence to this convention. In this regard, in particular, the adherence of those States which have used chemical weapons, those which assisted the violators in obtaining the technology to produce and use chemical weapons, those which provided them with delivery systems, and those which violated their commitments under the Geneva Protocol of 1925, is of the paramount importance. It is also essential to secure the adherence of those States which have or can acquire the capability to produce, stockpile or use chemical weapons.

Obviously, the dynamics of change in the world dictate that if a Government considers itself free of obligations with regard to the prohibition of chemical weapons, the determination of the world community should prevent such behaviour and should not allow a fiasco to take place.

It is in this sense that we believe the presence of observers in this august body should not be utilized for old polemics and politics of chicanery. This Conference has heard declarations in recent times by members which announced unilateral and bilateral reductions of weapons of mass destruction and the adoption of confidence-building measures. The Conference therefore cannot make its podium available to those who do not move in this direction. This is not a podium for those who do not move toward peace and collective security and relaxation of tension. The Conference should allow those observers which would like to work genuinely for the cause of disarmament in general, and the complete prohibition of chemical weapons and the removal of the nuclear threat in particular, to render their sincere contribution. It is in this spirit that their performance at the Conference